



CITY LAUNCHES SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES  
CONNECT ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND YOUTUBE

To address the fast-changing landscape of the Internet and the way residents communicate and obtain information online, the City has launched several new social media pages to enhance its communication with the community. Residents can now follow the City on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The new social media pages, combined with the City's existing communication tools, allow for greater and faster access to City news and information. The sites will provide users with frequent updates and keep the community informed about topics ranging from road closures to special events.

To get the latest news and information from the City, visit the City's website and click on the social media icons on the home page.

For more information, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

HELPING YOUR HOME SHINE  
FORECLOSED HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

If you are purchasing or have purchased a foreclosed home within the last 12 months, you may be eligible for up to \$20,000 in loans to make home improvements through the City's Foreclosed Home Improvement Program (FHIP).

One-half of the money borrowed will not have to be repaid if the owner lives in the home for five years. The remaining half will consist of a 5 percent deferred loan that does not have to be repaid until the owner sells, transfers title or no longer lives in the home.

Eligible improvements include:

- Repairs for health and safety requirements.
- Code repairs for electrical, heating and plumbing.
- Lead paint stabilization.
- Energy efficiency improvements.
- Exterior improvements such as siding, roofing, gutters and downspouts, windows, driveways, foundation repairs.

To be eligible for FHIP funds, properties must be located within a designated area of Bloomington. The area is bordered by American Boulevard to the north, the Minnesota River to the south, TH-77 on the east and I-35W on the west, *see map above*.

All FHIP applicants must be purchasing or have purchased a foreclosed home within the designated area within the last 12 months.

For more information, contact Brian Duerwachter at 952-563-8939 or e-mail [bduerwachter@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:bduerwachter@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FHIP.



PARKKEEPER  
RECOGNIZED  
JIM HOFFMAN HONORED

Parkkeeper II Jim Hoffman was recently awarded the 2010 Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association's Personnel Award, Maintenance Category.

Hoffman has been with the City for 10 years. His main responsibilities include maintaining the City's soccer fields, softball fields, tennis courts, playground equipment and walking paths at Marsh Lake and Kelly Park. Hoffman is also involved in the ice rink and sidewalk snow removal programs.

The award is given each year to a Minnesota Public Works employee who has demonstrated outstanding service to citizens, the use of innovative applications of new and existing technology, and outstanding efforts in developing teamwork.

In 2007, Bloomington Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson also received the award.



FEEDING WILDLIFE  
CHANGES MADE TO CITY CODE

Changes to the city code now prohibit the feeding of wild animals in Bloomington year-round.

The changes do not affect feeding of birds with birdseed mixtures, as long as the feeders are at least five feet off the ground. These changes were made in an effort to reduce the occurrence of issues with wild animals foraging on feed and creating a public nuisance. For more information, contact Bloomington Animal Control at 952-563-4942.



BOOK 'EM  
FIGHT CRIME  
WITH BOOKS

The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) is collecting books for its 19th annual used book sale. The Book 'em sale takes place **June 4 - 18** at 9801 Lyndale Avenue. Proceeds go to help fund crime prevention programs, the Bloomington Police Explorers and the Bloomington Police Department.

For more information and a list of used book drop-off sites, call 952-220-2537 or visit the BCPA website at [www.bcpamn.org](http://www.bcpamn.org).

RAMBLER REDO SERIES  
CREATING A KITCHEN FOR THE FAMILY

Nowadays, kitchens have become more than just a place to cook family meals. Kitchens are multi-purpose rooms built to combine form with function, with enough space to simultaneously accommodate homework, food preparation and whole family gatherings. Unfortunately, most rambler kitchens were not built to accommodate so much activity. The good news is the location of the rambler kitchen leaves plenty of room for growth.

The typical rambler kitchen is located at the back of the house and is normally a narrow, galley-style space with just enough room for food preparation. Although not ideal for most growing families, the location

of the rambler kitchen is the perfect place to add square footage. An eight-foot bump-out to the backyard is all it takes to transform a rambler kitchen.

Tan Nguyen of Nguyen Architects offers the following tips for making the most of your kitchen space:

- Create an eight-foot or more bump-out to accommodate a built-in dining area and small mudroom.
- Add new cabinets, flooring, appliances and pendant lights to complete the update.
- Install a wood ceiling to add interest and warmth.



- Include a crawl space open to the existing basement to warm the new flooring.

Before making any additions, it is important to check with the City's Building and Inspection Division at 952-563-8930 for zoning and setback requirements.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAMBLER REDO.

MOTOR VEHICLE IS HERE FOR YOU  
LICENSE RENEWALS, VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, TABS AND MORE

Spring is just around the corner. Are you ready for all the outdoor



activities the season has in store? If the fishing opener is on your mind, Bloomington Motor Vehicle can register your boat for you. Or perhaps you're dreaming of riding your motorcycle or camping again? Motor Vehicle can take care of those registrations, too.

Whether it's driver's license renewals, duplicates to automobile

registrations or renewing your license tabs, Bloomington Motor Vehicle does it all.

And remember, by purchasing your vehicle registration at your local motor vehicle office, a portion of the fee stays in your community.

For more information, call 952-563-8719 or visit our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MOTOR VEHICLE.